

Claim 1 (Amended). A process for obtaining nitroxyalkylesters of the 2-(S)-(6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-propanoic acid having an enantiomeric excess higher than or equal to 97%, characterized in that an acyl halide of 2-(S)-(6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-propanoic acid is reacted in an inert organic solvent with an aliphatic nitroxylakanol HO-Y-ONO₂, wherein Y has one of the following meanings:

- a linear or optionally branched C₁-C₂₀ alkylene, or
- a cycloalkylene with ring from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, said cycloalkylene optionally substituted with one or two alkylenes as above defined, and/or with one or more alkyl radicals having in the chain a number of carbon atoms as above defined for alkylene;
- an aromatic group with ring having 5 or 6 carbon atoms, said aromatic group optionally substituted with one or two alkylenes as above defined, and/or with one or more alkyl radicals having in the chain a number of carbon atoms as above defined for alkylene, or a -COOH group;
- $$\begin{array}{c} \text{-(T)}_p\text{-(CH-CH}_2\text{O)}_{nf}\text{-(T)-} \\ | \\ \text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2 \end{array}$$



T being alkylene as above defined and p an integer equal to zero or one, alkylene having the above mentioned meaning, nf is an integer from 1 to 6;

in the presence of an inorganic base, to give the corresponding nitroxyalkylester of the 2-(S)-(6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-propanoic acid of formula Acyl-O-Y-ONO₂, wherein Y is as above defined.

Claim 2 (Amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the aliphatic nitroxylalcohol amount on molar basis is in the range 1-2, with respect to that of the acid halide.

Claim 3 (Twice Amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic bases are hydroxides, oxides, carbonates and bicarbonates, silicates, aluminosilicates of the alkaline and alkaline-earth metals, or hydroxides, oxides, carbonates and bicarbonates of metals belonging to the group IIB, or to groups IIIa or IVa.

Claim 4 (Twice Amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic base amount is in molar ratio with the acid halide amount in the range 1-2.

Claim 5 (Twice Amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature in the range -20°C and 50°C.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claims 1-5 are rejected. Claims 1-5 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, for instance in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5 are submitted for further consideration at this time. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.